12/6/18

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman

The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner

The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner  
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission

455 12th Street, Southwest  
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to support the Comments of Brattleboro Community Television, Inc. (File ID 1113560010350) and to disapprove of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC’s September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05-311.

Brattleboro is a small town in Southern Vermont. It is the type of town that no news station follows. Except for public access, there is no channel to watch to obtain the news of the town and any other political, cultural, or educational matters of interest. Public Access fills a huge void in our community.

I once described the concept of public access to some Russians who were visiting our area. They were incredulous. At first, they couldn't even grasp the idea. “You mean, any citizen can be trained in video production and then air whatever content they choose?” Public Access is a modern day representation of what the Framers intended and stood for when they founded our nation. If anything, this public good should be strengthened, not weakened.

This local presence enables the residents of Windham County to create and watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC’s proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators – something that was never the intent of the Act – and could ultimately result in such reduction in franchise fees as to defund PEG Access in our state.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG Access in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,

Andy Reichsman

Filmmaker

Marlboro, Vt. 05344